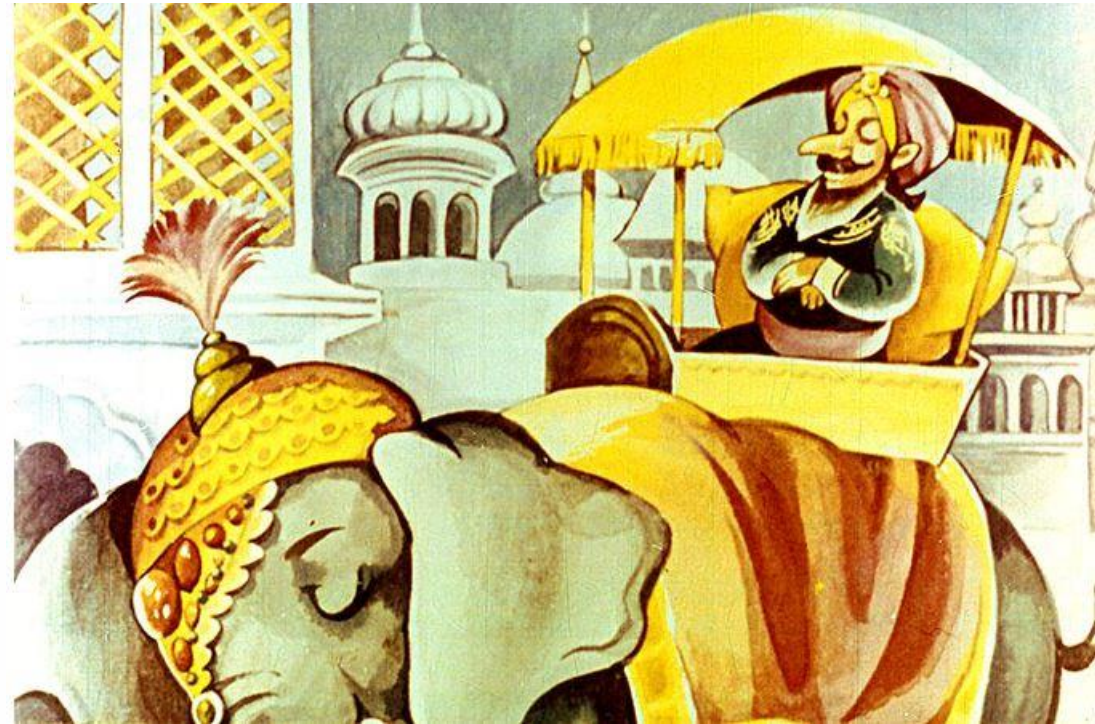




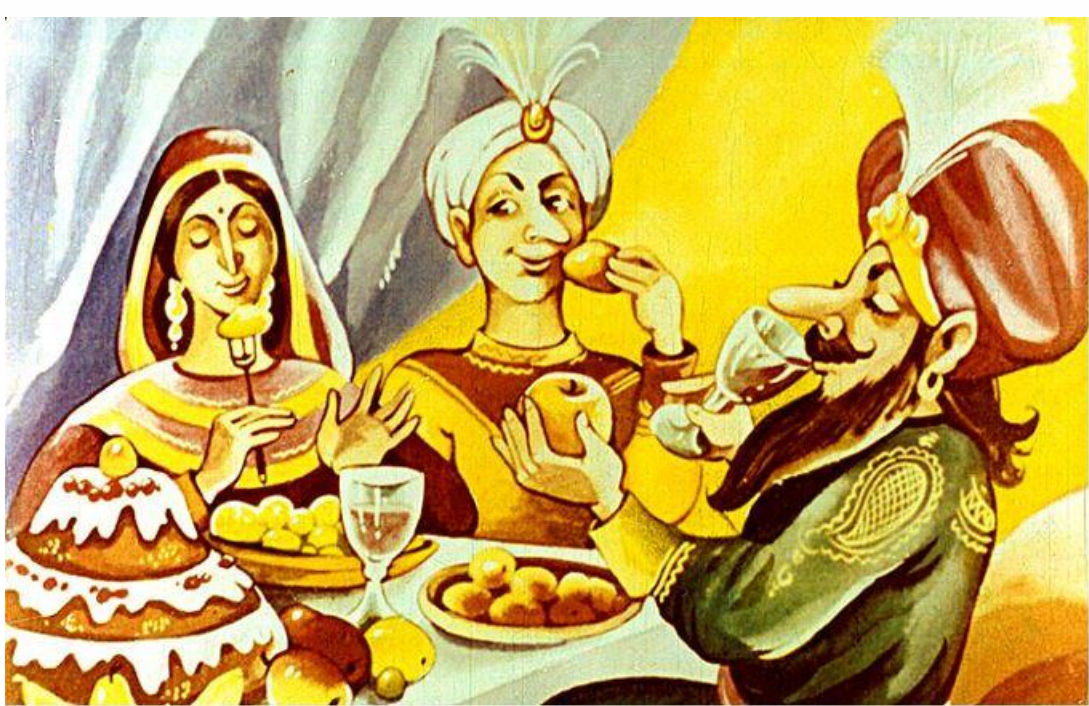
Arabian Tale

The King's Promise

Illustrated by Pekarovska S.



There was a King who
lived in a grand palace.



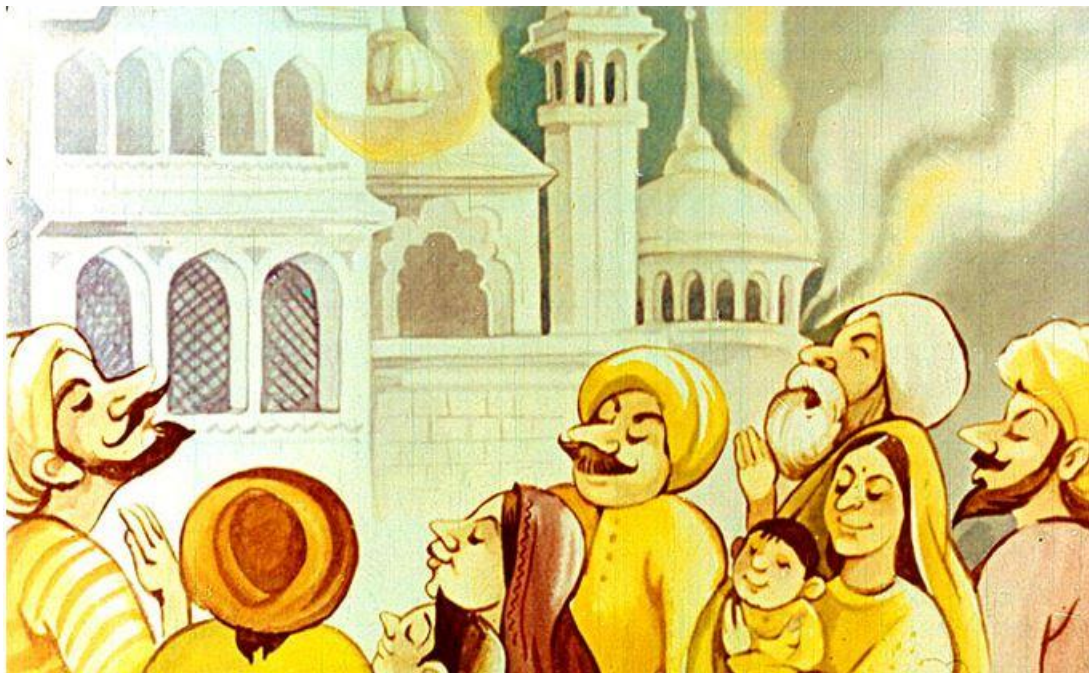
He lived with a Queen and Prince and they have many servants and cooks.



The King and everybody in the palace liked sweets very much.



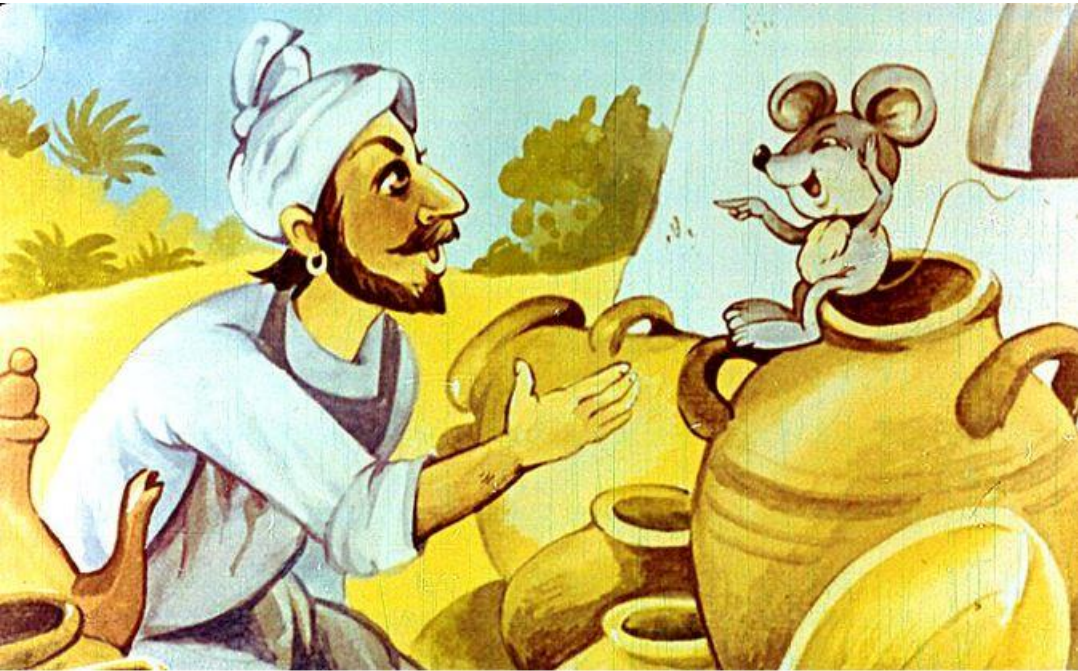
The King's cooks made the best sweets. Fragrance of them spread in the town.



But the poor people had no tasty things to eat. They only enjoyed the fragrance...



Kalu, the potter, made beautiful pottery, but he earned little money. That's why Kalu and his best friend Bib, the mouse only enjoyed the fragrance of sweets from the King's palace.



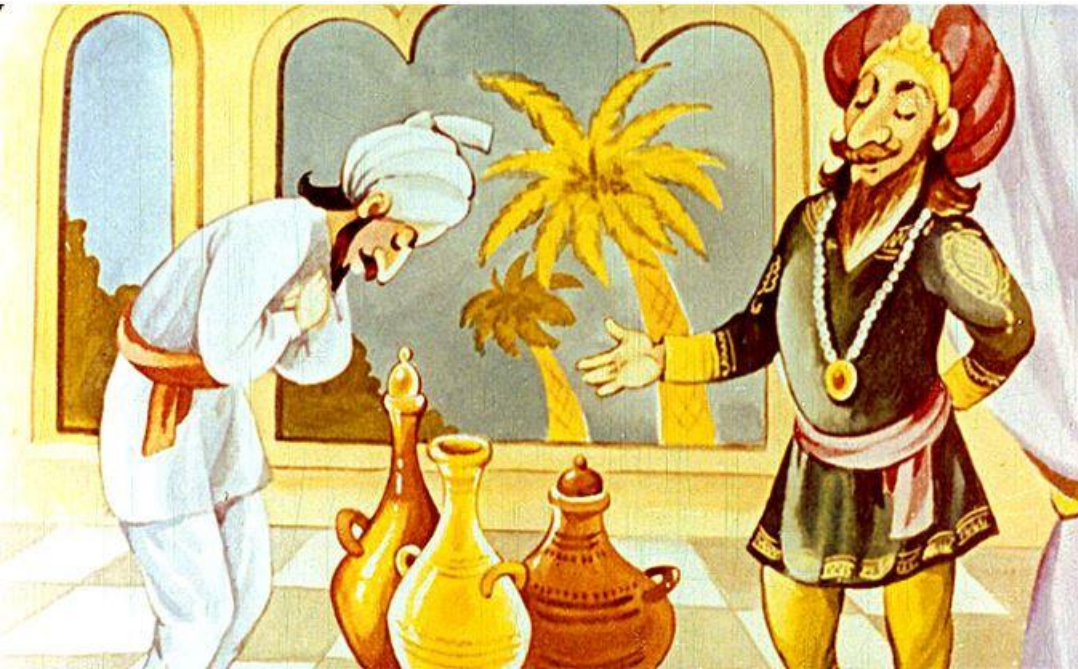
One day Kalu said to Bib:
“I would like to taste the
King’s sweets. But what
can I do?”



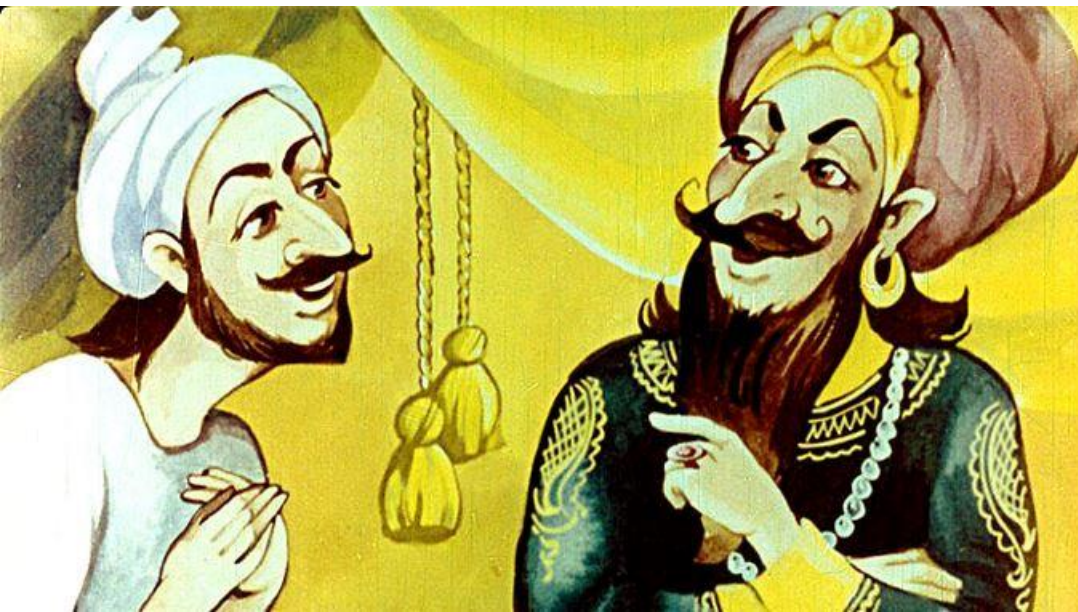
Bib thought a little and then said:
“Make three beautiful jugs for the
King’s family. And instead of money
ask for some sweets.”



Kalu began to work and soon
three wonderful jugs were ready.
He went to the palace.

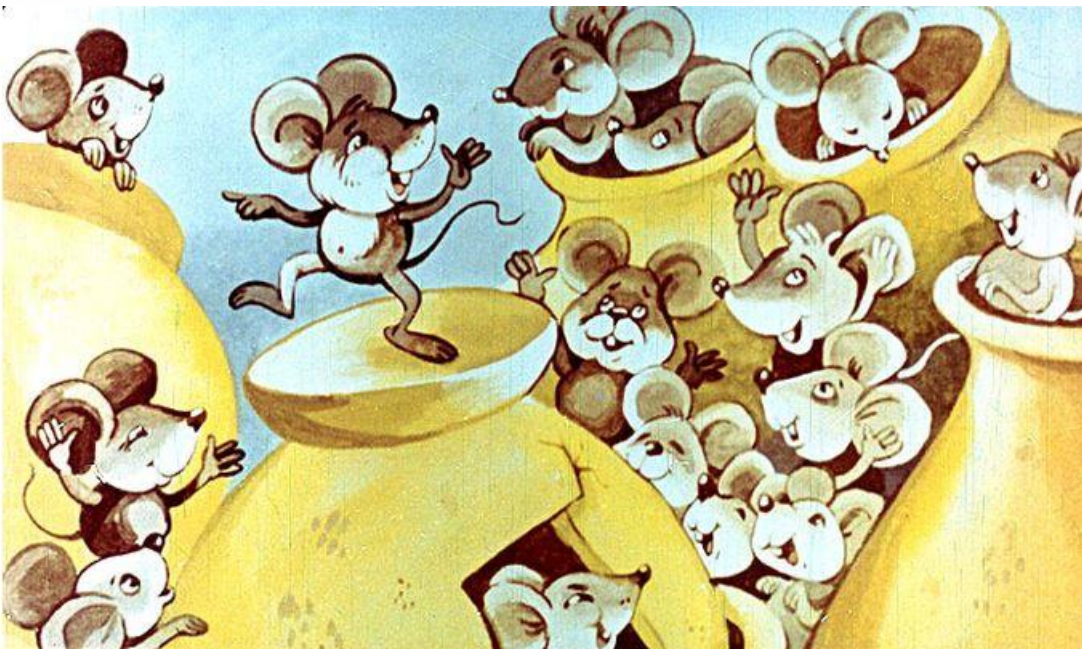


The King, the Queen and the Prince liked the jugs very much. "What do you want for them?" asked the King.



“I want some sweets for me and my friends.”

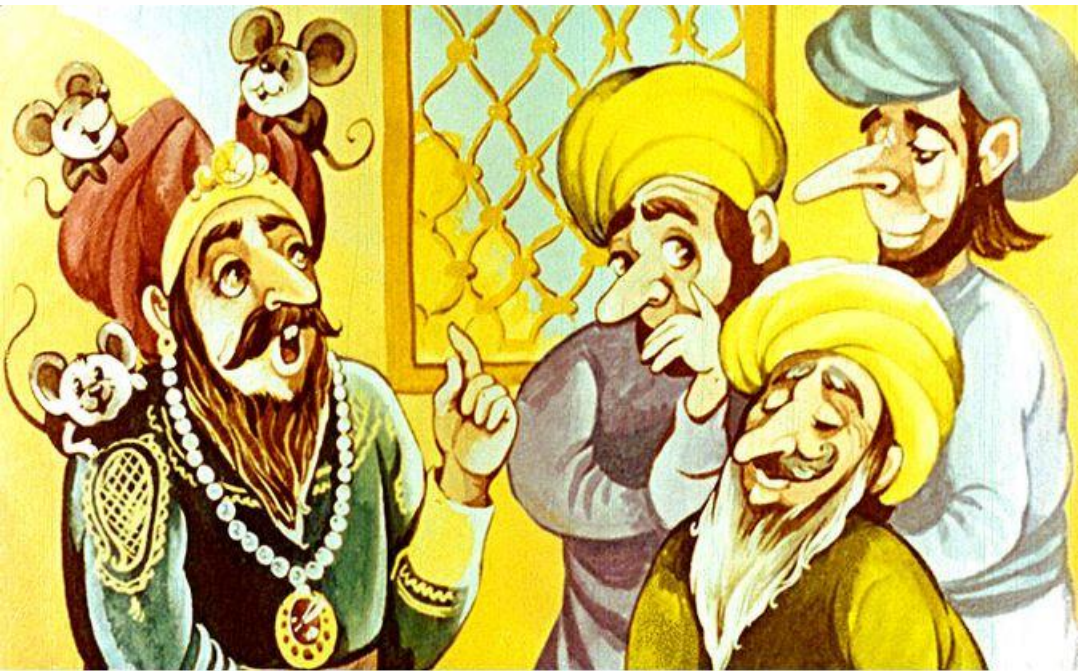
“Why not? My cooks will make plenty of sweets for you and all your friends. **THIS IS MY PROMISE.**”



Bib had many relatives and friends. When Kalu told him about the King's promise, Bib cried, "Follow me, my friends!"



The mice attacked the dishes of sweets. But there were too many of them and the King got worried.



“How to get rid of the mice?”
he asked his wise men. “Let us
bring cats”, they advised.



The King ordered his servants to bring cats. They brought cats from every corner of the town.



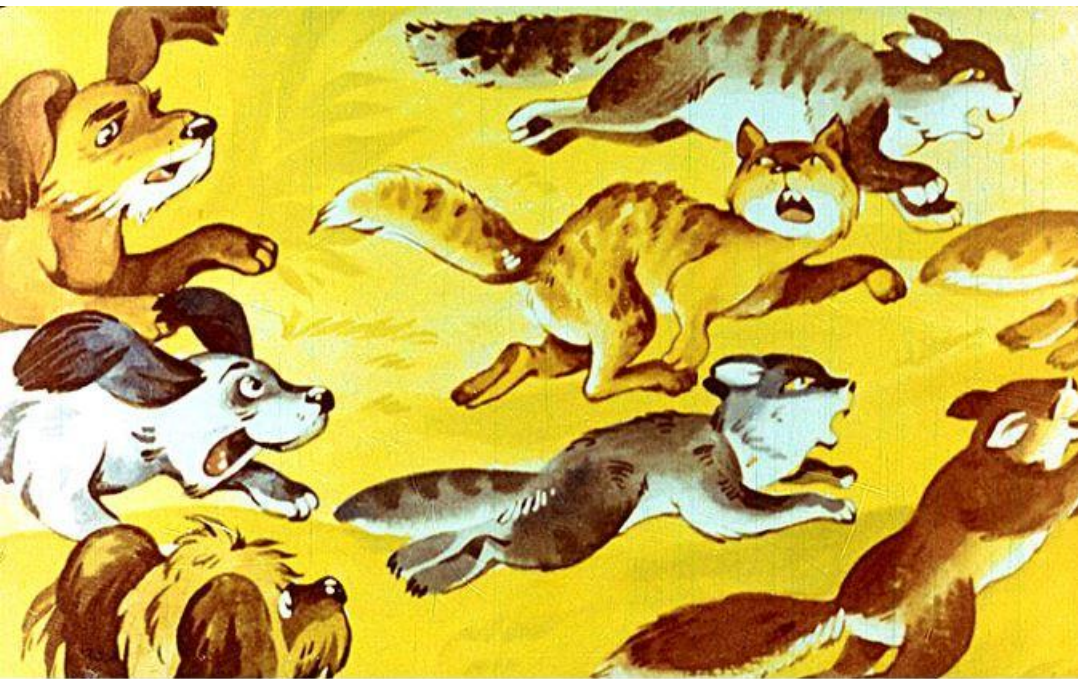
The cats did a very good job.
Soon all the mice ran away
from the palace.



But now the cats were the guests of the King. They sat on the King's chairs and slept on the King's pillows.



The King became angry.
Again he called in his
wise men. They advised,
“Bring dogs to drive the
cats away”.



Black and brown, grey and white, barking and growling dogs came in. They chased the cats.



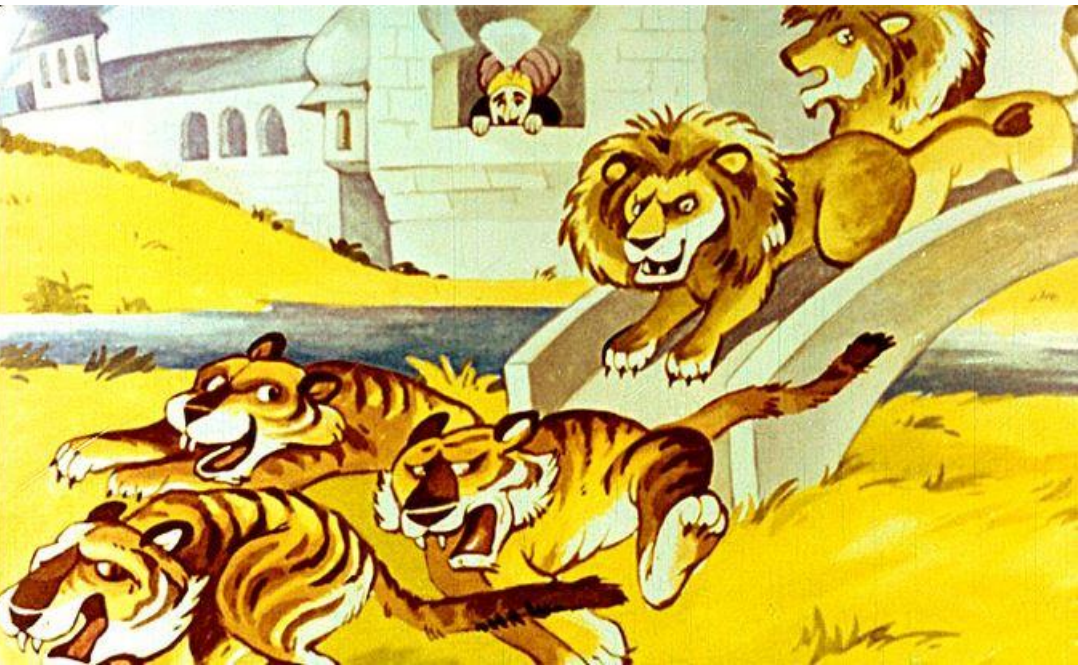
Now the dogs enjoyed living in the palace. They ate sweets from the King's dishes and slept on the King's beds. The dogs were happy, the King was sad.



The wise men advised to bring some tigers. The fierce beasts ran after the dogs. The frightened dogs left the palace.



Now the tigers lived in the palace. They ate, drank and slept everywhere. The palace was full of bad smell. The King was horrified.



The wise men advised, “Bring lions to drive away the tigers.” Lions were brought, big and fierce. And the tigers ran away as quickly as they could.



Now the kings of the forest became the kings of palace. They sat and slept on the King's throne and the real King and his family had no rooms to live in.



“What to do?” cried the King.

“We must find some small creatures who can harass even the lions. It is only the mouse. None else!”



Bib, the mouse was invited to the palace.

“I’m sorry,” said the King, “that I ordered to bring cats to the palace. Help us!”

“We’ll help you,” said Bib. “But give US A PROMISE you will not call cats to drive us away.”

The King laughed and said: “Agreed. IT IS MY PROMISE.”



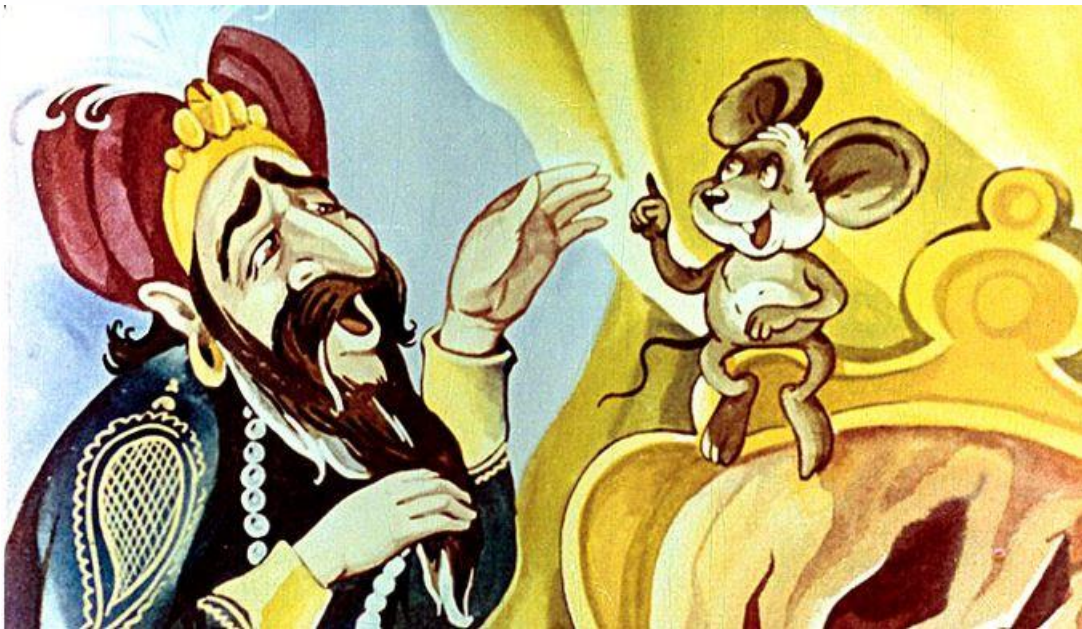
The mice attacked the lions. The huge fierce animals could do nothing. If four were thrown off, forty appeared, If forty were thrown off, four hundred appeared.



The mice prove the lions
away into the forest.



The happy King gave a
grand feast to the mice.



Leaving the palace Bib said:
“You can call us whenever
you need... We will come. IT
IS MY PROMISE!”